

**(Washington, DC)** Congressman Alcee L. Hastings (D-Miramar) made the following statement on President Obama's proposal to open waters off Florida's coast to offshore drilling:

"The President's proposal is extremely upsetting both for me and the people of Florida.

Notwithstanding the environmental concerns, Florida's \$65 billion per-year tourism and fishing industries are dependent on clean beaches and clear water that are now in jeopardy. While I appreciate President Obama's desire to cut waste, save energy, and reduce our dependence on foreign oil, these goals are accomplished by developing sustainable, clean energy and promoting responsible consumption practices, not by drilling for more oil closer to home.

"The future of the United States' economy is dependent upon our country being at the forefront of the next generation of sustainable energy. Instead, this proposal is more of the same and is leaving us even further behind the technological curve.

"This new proposal asks Congress to take back our promise to the people of Florida, while giving them very little in return. I've said it before and I will say a thousand times more if I have to, I will be the last man standing in the fight to prevent expanded offshore oil drilling in Florida."

*Congressman Alcee L. Hastings is Vice Chairman of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, a senior member of the House Rules Committee, and Co-Chairman of the U.S. Helsinki Commission.*

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